

the end plate, said peak and valley shaped grooves extending in a circumferential direction of the end plate so as to be abutted against the inner surface of the sleeve; hinges and fasteners releasably hooked between said sleeve members to integrally connect said sleeve members to each other through said abutting joint surfaces arranged opposite to each other; said end plates each being formed of rubber plastic material with a slit in a manner to extend from said cable guide hole to a portion of said end plate in proximity to an outer periphery of said end plate so as to permit a wall of said end plate to open by cutting along said slit; said cable guide hole being provided thereon with a thin-wall cap capable of being removed by cutting and said slit being detachably fitted therein with a rigidity holding member; and a gasket including an adhesive interposed between said outer periphery of said end plate and an inner surface of said sleeve so as to cover an outer end of said slit, said gasket arranged on the outer periphery surface of the end plate by adhesion while being conformed to the outer periphery of the end plate and the plurality of peak and valley shaped grooves of the sealing member, said gasket being discontinuous about the outer periphery surface of said end plate whereby portions of said plurality of peaks and valleys are exposed, whereby said exposed portions of said plurality of peaks and valleys are abutted directly against the inner surface of the sleeve and the gasket covered portions of said plurality of peaks and valleys are abutted against said inner sleeve with said gasket therebetween.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action dated May 11, 2000, the shortened statutory period for filing a response having expired on August 11, 2000. In this regard, Applicants submit herewith a three month extension petition to reset the deadline for responding to the